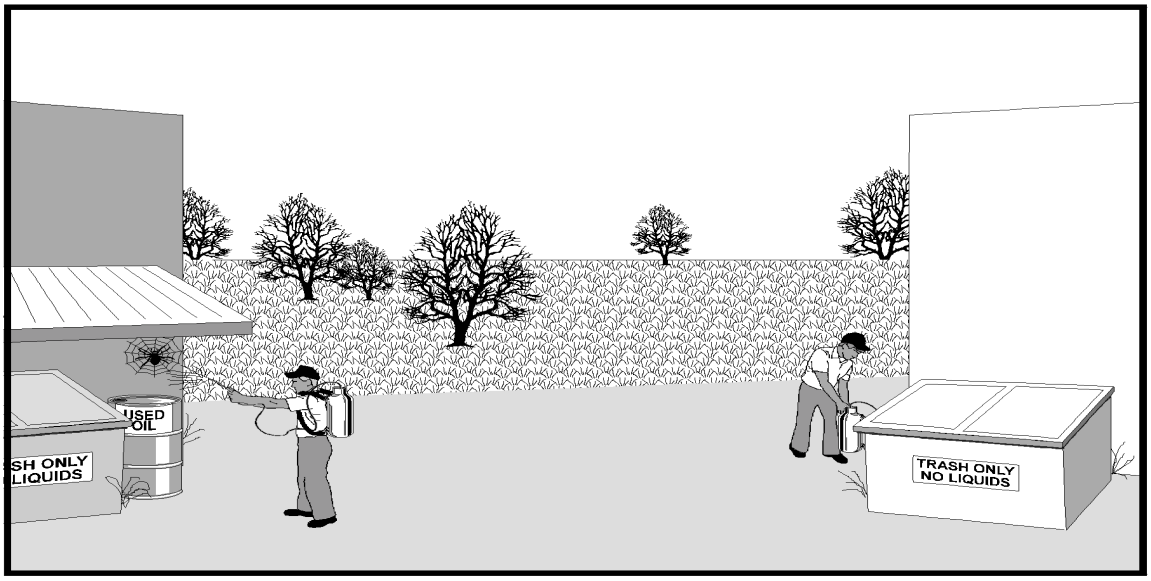
BMP 081 - Establish Integrated Pest Control



Description of Potential Pollutant and Source: Pesticides and herbicides may be spilled, over-applied, and/or incorrectly applied, resulting in exposure of storm water. These materials can then be transported to the storm drain and/or receiving waters.

Description of BMP: Integrated pest management control involves eliminating excessive pesticide use by proper application procedures and/or the use of alternatives. This reduces the amount of pesticides which can potentially enter the storm water. Pesticides include insecticides, herbicide, fungicides, and rodenticides.

The use of pesticides for insect and weed control will be minimized by the following:

- Mechanical removal of weeds, eggs, larvae, cocoons, and insects
- Habitat changes to minimize pest insect breeding
- Timing of application to the most vulnerable phase of the pest insect breeding
- Concentration of effort on the most affected areas
- Use of natural predators and pathogens specific to pests
- Use of degradable and non-carcinogenic pesticides

Additionally, no pesticides will be applied within 3 days prior to any predicted rain event. During the wet season, pesticide application will be kept to a minimum.

Application Guidance: Injury and tolerance levels will be used to determine if the pest problem is serious enough to justify some kind of treatment. Whenever pest control is necessary, an integrated management plan will be developed.

Training: All persons applying pesticides will be required to understand the pertinent provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and state laws and regulations and be certified, if required.

Effectiveness and Cost: Effectiveness and cost will depend on whether natural or pesticide controls are used. This BMP can be highly effective and low cost when properly developed.

Limitations: None